MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MAY 1981

Lebanese Situation

Habib Mission--Special U.S. envoy Philip Habib conducted intensive contacts with Lebanese and Syrian leaders over the weekend. According to Beirut radio, he met with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad on the morning of 8 May. Later in the day, Voice of Lebanon reported, Habib held talks with Phalangist commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, his father Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and former President Camille Sham'un. Voice of Lebanon also reported that on 9 May Habib discussed the Zahlah situation with the Cabinet ministers from that city--Joseph Shaf, Ilyas al-Hirawi and Joseph abu-Khatir--and said he met National Movement leader Walid Junblatt.

Later on 9 May Habib went to Damascus, Damascus radio reported, where he held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. According to SANA, on 10 May Habib held discussions with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during which Al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's support for Lebanon's independence and unity and for nonintervention in Lebanon's internal affairs. Habib gave Al-Asad a message from President Reagan and briefed Al-Asad on his talks in Beirut, SANA added.

Reaction to Habib Visit--A 9 May Damascus radio commentary said that if the situation in Lebanon is as serious as U.S. officials claim, it is Israel's offensive actions, not Syria's deployment of SAM missiles in self-defense, that are responsible. The radio warned those in Tel Aviv and Washington who think they can frighten Syria into abandoning its cause and principles that they are mistaken, since Syria is unafraid of threats and does not withdraw before them, nor can Syria be softened by enticements. On 10 May the radio reviewed a commentary by the daily TISHRIN stressing that Syria's private diplomatic stand is the same as its publicized position. TISHRIN also said Israel's "belligerent threats" cannot change the situation in Israel's favor but rather might speed up the collapse of what the United States thinks it has achieved over the last decade.

In an 11 May editorial carried by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, the PLO newspaper FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH described any proposals by U.S. envoy Habib for partitioning Lebanon as ridiculous. Contrasting Habib's reported lack of concern for the Palestinians with the Soviet Union's support for Syria and the Palestinians against Israel, the newspaper said Habib's tour is aimed at reversing the new situation in Lebanon in which the installation of Syrian SAM's has swung the balance of military power against Israel and given the Palestinians a "pan-Arab umbrella" under which they can carry out armed struggle. Warning that Israel's term in Lebanon is coming to an end, it said the red lines that existed before the deployment of SAM's no longer exist. Claiming that Israel will collapse if it loses its military superiority, FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH said an Israeli operation against the Palestinian revolution is therefore inevitable. However, it said, Syria's firm stand and the support of the Soviet Union will make any attempt to wage a limited, separate war against the Palestinians useless.

Voice of Palestine also carried the text of an article by WAFA's political editor that said the United States is responsible for the current crisis in Lebanon through its support for Israel and is therefore not fit to be an arbiter or mediator.

Among other reaction to the U.S. envoy's visit to the region, SPA reported that the Saudi paper AL-YAWM expressed doubts about Habib's impartiality, asserting that instead of forcing Israel to stop its aggression in Lebanon, the U.S. envoy has asked Syria to turn its cheek so that Israel can do as it pleases in Lebanon.

Arab Diplomacy, Comments--Radio reports indicated a flurry of diplomatic activity over the weekend in several Arab capitals. According to Damascus radio, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam flew to Tripoli with a message from President al-Asad for Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. On the same day, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko left Damascus for the Soviet Union, the radio reported, and said in a predeparture statement that his talks with Syrian officials had been successful and useful. According to the radio, Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur briefed foreign diplomats in Damascus on the "explosive situation" in Lebanon, while on 10 May Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm told the Syrian Cabinet, meeting in a special session, that Syria has the power to strike enemy forces in any of the confrontation arenas. Damascus radio also said Libyan Foreign Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki arrived in Damascus on 10 May. Earlier, At-Turayki had spent 2 days in Aden, where, according to ANA, he met with PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. A PDRY envoy also arrived in Damascus on 10 May with a message for Al-Asad from the PDRY leader, Damascus radio reported.

Following PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's return from a tour of Gulf countries to Beirut on 8 May, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that the PLO Executive Committee held an emergency meeting and issued a statement on 9 May, charging Israel with preparing military action against the Palestinian revolution, Syria and the Lebanese people. It said the PLO leadership declares complete support for Syria's right to strengthen its air and ground defenses in Lebanon. According to INA, 'Arafat went to Baghdad on 11 May for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Citing the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y Al-'AMM's 9 May edition, KUNA reported that Kuwait will urge Arab countries to hold an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss Lebanon. The Kuwaiti initiative is at the behest of PLO leader 'Arafat, the report said.

Lebanese National Movement Statement--After the return of its delegation from Syria, the Lebanese National Movement issued a statement, broadcast by Voice of Palestine radio on 8 May, that reaffirmed the movement's support for national accord but warned the Lebanese authorities against taking only partial measures to improve security. Unless agreement is reached on basic political issues, the statement warned, it would be futile to expect partial security solutions to succeed. The statement also strongly rejected the deployment of the Lebanese Army to maintain security in any Lebanese area, particularly Zahlah, the Sannin heights, roads and crossing points and the airport. The army has proved to be a protector of the isolationist Christian community and a striking force for the Phalangists, the statement asserted, and therefore the National Movement calls for its withdrawal from all contact lines. The statement said the National Movement will continue to reject the deployment of the army in any security task until it is restructured on a national basis, liberating it from factional domination.

Israeli Comments--Speaking at the Likud unification conference on 10 May, Prime Minister Menahem Begin warned that if the Syrians do not remove their missiles from Lebanon, the Israeli Air Force will be ordered to act, Jerusalem radio reported.

A statement issued by Prime Minister Begin's office, carried by ITIM on 10 May, denied a report by the Israeli newspaper DAVAR that the United States has given a green light for an Israeli attack on the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. The statement stressed that as a sovereign state Israel has not asked and will not ask for a green light for any action. The statement also denied a report by the New York TIMES alleging that in his recent message to President Ronald Reagan, Prime Minister Begin likened the current crisis to the situation on the eve of the 6-day war of 1967.

IDF radio broadcast an excerpt of a 10 May press conference held by opposition Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres in which he stressed that there is no justification for the Syrian deployment of SAM's in Lebanon and said Israel should not accept such a situation. In

an excerpt of the press conference broadcast by Jerusalem television, however, Peres also criticized Prime Minister Begin's rhetoric on the subject for arousing hopes among Lebanese Christians that Israel will probably not be able to fulfill.

Military Situation--Reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios indicated that clashes flared up intermittently in Beirut throughout the weekend, with heavy casualties on 9 May. According to Voice of Lebanon, Syrian forces fired on the Christian-held port of Juniyah with surface-to-surface missiles. The radio also said the Syrians have brought in reinforcements in the Al-Biqa' valley and reported that some Syrian units have withdrawn from western Beirut and redeployed along the Ad-Damur ridges and in the Dayr al-Qamar area to the south. An Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) commander, in a statement reported by Beirut radio, had earlier denied any withdrawal of ADF forces from the capital. Voice of Palestine reports on 9 May denied that Syrian forces have moved south of the Az-Zahrani River and claimed that Israel has amassed large numbers of military vehicles in and around the Christian-held border strip. Damascus television also reported large Israeli concentrations in the Jordan River Valley.

Libya

Reacting to the recent U.S. decision to expel all Libyan diplomats from the United States, a 9 May commentary by Tripoli's Voice of Arab Homeland radio said the current U.S. campaign against Libya is designed to besiege the Libyan revolution politically and militarily with the intention of using "Arab reaction" as a tool in a military operation against Libya. The United States also wishes to counter Libya's call for other progressive Arab forces to join the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Nonaligned Delegation--Tehran radio reported that the select committee of the nonaligned countries, consisting of the Cuban, Indian and Zambian foreign ministers, the chairman of the PLO's Political Department and the Nonaligned Movement's UN representative, arrived in Tehran on 10 May with proposals for ending the Iranian-Iraqi war. The radio said that the delegation met with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and that later the Supreme Defense Council met in extraordinary session to discuss the proposals. It quoted Bani-Sadr as saying that the council would meet again on 11 May and ask Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni for his opinion before making a decision.

Conference Postponement Request--The prime minister's political adviser, Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said in an interview with Tehran radio that Iran has requested the postponement of the 12th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, scheduled for 31 May in Baghdad, until the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Military Activity--According to Tehran radio, on 7 May one Iraqi MiG was shot down on the Gilan-e Gharb front, two aircraft were downed in the Abadan and Naftshahr regions and three others were brought down in the western and southern regions. The radio admitted that Iraqi fire had damaged Abadan's residential districts and that the Iraqis, at the behest of the Kurdish Democratic Party, had used MiG's in a 7 May air raid on the northern region of Sar Dasht, killing approximately 25 Iranians. Tehran radio later reported the Iraqi shelling of Ahvaz and Dezful on 10 May and the Iranian bombing of an Iraqi industrial installation in the Kirkuk region. It also said Iranian forces had killed 200 Iraqis in the Marivan region and had pushed back the enemy. Tehran broadcasts on 10 May reported sporadic military activity on some of the Ilam fronts and said that Iraq's Seyyed-Sadeq garrison had been partially destroyed. The radio reported on 11 May that a section of the Al-Faw oil refinery in Iraq had been set ablaze by Iranian shelling and that Abadan had been brought under long-range Iraqi artillery fire the previous day.

Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communiques carried by INA over the weekend reported on the downing of an Iranian fighter plane in the Shush area and on clashes in Dezful

and Abadan. A 10 May communique reported the deaths of 16 Iranians in the Dezful area and 35 in the Abadan area.

Iraq

Ramadan Visits PRC--INA reported that Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan returned to Baghdad after an official visit to the PRC during which Iraq and the PRC signed agreements on technical and economic cooperation and trade. Ramadan met with COP Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping, INA reported, and also visited Bangladesh before returning to Iraq.

Oil Contract With USSR--According to INA, Iraq and the Soviet Union signed contracts on oil cooperation between the Iraqi National Oil Company and Soviet organizations following talks in Moscow.

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JUSTICE MINISTER SPEAKS ON REVOLUTION, OPPOSITION

LD102148 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1235 GMT 10 May 81

[Speech by 'Abdorrashid Arian, DRA deputy prime minister and justice minister, at Justice Ministry meeting held in support of the Congress of DRA Trade Unions--recorded; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] Esteemed friends, comrades and staff of the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office:

Our esteemed audience knows very well that Afghanistan--that [words indistinct] backward society--is living in sensitive and historic circumstances.

It is obvious that, due to the Sawr Revolution, barriers have been removed against our society's progress and development. The road has been opened for progress and advancement. Barriers existed against progress under the former system of government, but we are at the start of work.

It is obvious that revolution, wherever it takes place, has friends and enemies. Those classes and strata which benefit from the revolution are responsible for the revolution, bring revolution into being and make revolution successful. On the other hand, there are classes and strata, inside and outside of society, which lose by revolution and are worried by revolution.

Revolutions which took place, are taking place now or will come into being in the future in other societies, are a natural course of evolution. The Sawr Revolution in Afghanistan came into being on the basis of society's evolutionary laws and the internal struggle of confronting forces.

According to the principle of revolution, those forces and classes which find their interests endangered by the revolution, namely exploiters [word indistinct] bureaucrats and smugglers, form resistance against the revolution. It is also true that they do not only stand against revolution inside the country, but on the international level, too, they create barriers and initiate foreign interference.

International imperialism and the reaction of the region fear the Sawr Revolution and strive to hamper the revolution so that it does not gain its objectives, because as soon as the revolution attains its objectives another society will come into being as a model and example in the region. It would have a positive impact on the revolutionary movements of the region, raise their morale, bring revolutions to their peak and, as a result of spreading its revolutionary influence, soon become the factor enhancing revolutionary movements in the region.

Imperialism and reaction in the region have fully comprehended this point. However, they know that our revolution is unbeatable and invincible. But, to attain their objectives, in the course of creating barriers they are striving and making interference [words indistinct]. As you heard on the radio a few days ago, U.S. President Reagan said: I will give weapons to Afghanistan's counterrevolutionary elements and reactionary organizations.

MINISTER RETURNS FROM FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

LD102154 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Fazel Rahim Momand, minister of agriculture and land reform, and his accompanying delegation returned home this afternoon after participating in the 15th FAO Near East regional conference in Rome. After the conference the minister of agriculture and his delegation paid a friendly and official visit to the USSR at the invitation of the USSR minister of agriculture.

Present at Kabul International Airport to welcome the minister were members of the Council of Ministers, deputies and heads of departments in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform.

On his arrival at Kabul International Airport the minister of agriculture and land reform told a Bakhtar correspondent that in the FAO regional conference in Rome he had spoken about the country's earlier bad conditions in agriculture and the state of agriculture during the Sawr Revolution and explained the programs planned for further advances. He added that during the FAO conference, regional agricultural projects in the Near East were discussed and the necessary decisions taken.

The conference lasted 6 days and was attended by delegations from 24 countries of this region, led by their respective ministers of agriculture, and by observers from other countries and international institutions.

The minister of agriculture and land reform met with the FAO director in Rome and had useful discussions with him about common issues, including this organization's assistance to agricultural projects in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

During his official and friendly visit to the USSR, Fazel Rahim Momand met with the USSR minister of agriculture and other high-ranking agricultural officials of the USSR. He held useful discussions about the USSR's cooperation in advancing Afghanistan's agriculture. He also visited agricultural and farming institutions in the USSR.

Momand expressed his thanks for the warm welcome he and his delegation received during their visit to the USSR.

'ABDOL QADER, ARIAN VISIT FEYZABAD, MAKE SPEECHES

LD091650 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader, member of PDPA Central Committee, director of the Justice and Defense Department of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the Presidium of Revolution Council; and 'Abdorrashid Arian, member of the PDPA Central Committee, deputy prime minister, minister of justice and attorney general, accompanied by Nezamuddin Tahzib, member of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Supreme Court, participated in a meeting of hundreds of toiling citizens of Feyzabad. The meeting was comprised of cadres and party activists, workers, ulema and clergy, peasants, members of DYOA [Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan] and DWOA [Democratic Women of Afghanistan], heads and personnel of local government departments and teachers and pupils from Feyzabad schools and was organized in total defense and support of the party and the government of the DRA in that city.

At the beginning of the meeting, the greetings and good wishes of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of PDPA Central Committee, president of Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, were conveyed by Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader and 'Abdorrashid Arian to the toiling and noble people of Badakhstan Province. The greetings were warmly received by hundreds of people of that province who expressed their happiness by shouting revolutionary slogans.

In their speeches, 'Abdol Qader and Arian dwelt in detail on the humanitarian and progressive goals of the party and the government of the DRA, saying that our revolutionary government, in light of the aims of the new and development stage of the Sawr Revolution, has always been struggling for the building and prosperity of a free Afghanistan, and is surging forward by relying on the resolute will of our toiling people.

Maj Gen Abdol Qader and 'Abdorrashid Arian, after decisive condemnation of the treacherous and wild actions of the imperialist and reactionary circles--headed by the world-devouring American imperialism--against the glorious Sawr Revolution and our revolutionary state, wished for further unity and solidarity of the working class and of the noble people of Badakhshan Province with the party and the government of DRA, and asked for their protracted and just struggle in eliminating counterrevolutionary elements, the enemies of Afghanistan's progress and development.

Subsequently, Nezamuddin Tahzib spoke in detail about the aims of the new developmental stage of the Sawr Revolution in relation to a free and prosperous Afghanistan.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Feyzabad that all portions of the revolutionary speeches of Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader, 'Abdorrashid Arian and Nezamuddin Tahzib were received by the audience with revolutionary slogans and continuous applause. The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that at the end of this glamorous meeting the mayor of Feyzabad also made a speech and, subsequently, two of the ulema and clergy also spoke on behalf of the toiling people of Badakhshan. They welcomed 'Abdol Qader, 'Abdorrashid Arian and Nezamuddin Tahzib to the city, expressed patriotic and revolutionary feelings in supporting their people's government and promised to sacrifice as much as necessary in order to realize the aims of the new and developmental stage of the Sawr Revolution and to eliminate the enemies of the revolution, people and country.

OFFICIALS VISIT POL-E KHOMRI, MEET LOCAL LEADERS

LD091620 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader, member of PDPA Central Committee, director of the Justice and Defense Department of the Central Committee and member of the Revolution Council Presidium and 'Abdorrashid Arian, member of the PDPA Central Committee and the Revolution Council, deputy prime minister, minister of justice and attorney general, arrived in Pol-e Khomri today, accompanied by Nezamuddin Tahzib, president of the Supreme Court. They were received at the airport by Sadiqulla Tora'i, secretary of the Provincial Committee, governor of Baghlan and commander of the military force, and by members of the social and party organizations of Baghlan. Gen 'Abdol Qader and 'Abdorrashid Arian then met in the textile club of Pol-e Khomri with members of the Provincial Committee, party activists and the commander of police and other police officers to remind them now more than ever of their duties and responsibilities to their respective tasks.

USSR TO SUPPLY EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT AS GRANT

LD102316 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] The USSR, based on traditional friendship and good relations with Afghanistan, has assisted Afghanistan for more than 60 years in various areas of education, culture, technology and economics. This assistance increased after the success of the glorious Sawr Revolution, particularly after its new development stage, and is helping the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in various spheres. In this connection, the Ministry of Education of the friendly Soviet Union has given as grant-in-aid a quantity of teaching tools and equipment for the experimental school in Kabul, valued at R200,000, which was accepted by the Ministry of Education with thanks. The relevant documents for the delivery of the teaching tools and equipment were signed by Dr Faqir Mohammad Ya'qubi, acting minister of the Ministry of Education, and Dr (Anatoliy Chiganov), economic advisor of the Soviet Embassy, in Kabul this morning.

BAKHTAR reports that the teaching tools and equipment includes educational tools; [word indistinct]; various kinds of special (?furniture) for students and teachers; notebooks; pencils; completely equipped training workshops; blackboards; a teaching laboratory with its accessories; complete units for cutting and filing steel; carpentry; measuring equipment; audio-visual equipment for classrooms of the primary and secondary grades in arithmetic, physics, chemistry, biology and geography; sample tables and cupboards for laboratories; cupboards for [words indistinct], movie projectors; tape recorders; televisions; small radio receivers for school use; various types of tables, chairs and cupboards for [word indistinct]; complete sets of map drawing equipment; complete tools and equipment for [word indistinct]; complete workshops for metal work and carpentry; tailoring units; a complete press [word indistinct] unit; films; educational maps; recorded tapes and discs; complete tools and equipment for primary school children; [word indistinct]; and medicines for first aid. These tools and equipment will be delivered to Afghanistan through Hayratan Port over a period of 1 year. They will be used by the students of Kabul Experimental School.

ZIAUR RAHMAN RETURNS FROM SYRIA, FRG 9 MAY

BK090856 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 9 May 81

[Excerpt] President Ziaur Rahman returned home this afternoon after a week-long visit to Syria and the Federal Republic of Germany. He was received at Dacca airport by Vice President Sattar and others, (? including) Bangladesh Nationalist Party Secretary General Prof Badrudozza Chowdhury. Cabinet ministers, civil and military officials were also present at the airport.

News Conference Remarks

BK110637 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has said Bangladesh is gradually mobilizing its domestic resources side by side with foreign assistance for its development efforts. Addressing a crowded news conference on the lawn of his residence in Dacca this evening, the president said the whole world is ready to provide assistance but we must make efforts to effectively utilize all foreign assistance.

Giving his impressions on his recently concluded visits to Syria and the FRG, President Zia said the trip on all accounts has proved very much useful for Bangladesh. He especially referred to the understanding and arrangements in the economic fields with the West German Government during his visit to that country. The president said West Germany has agreed to assist Bangladesh in developing the Jamalganj coal mine. He said: We are going to take up the project for implementation shortly and we may begin to extract coal in 3-4 years time.

President Zia said West Germany has also offered its assistance in the field of energy resources. It has agreed to expand its cooperation in the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in Bangladesh.

On his visit to various West German industrial concerns, the president said they have offered to help Bangladesh in the manufacture of railway carriages and wagons, gearboxes and other equipment of trucks and buses and in setting up of petrochemical industries. We are very much interested to establish a petrochemical industry based on natural gas, he said.

President Zia condoled the death of the recently assassinated journalist and labor leader in Dacca and said we all condemn such heinous, reprehensible and unwarranted killings. He hoped that those responsible for the murder will be shortly apprehended and punished according to the law of the country.

IRAQ'S RAMADAN, DELEGATION ARRIVE FOR VISIT

BK081719 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 8 May 81

[Excerpt] A high-powered Iraqi delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Dacca tonight on a 3-day official and friendly visit to Bangladesh. Ramadan is accompanied by member of the Revolutionary Command Council and Minister of Commerce Hasan 'Ali, Minister of Housing and Construction Muhammad Fadil Husayn, and chairman of the Iraqi Fund for External Development, 'Abd-al Amir Anwari.

During the visit the Iraqi delegation will call on President Ziaur Rahman. It will also call on the vice president, the prime minister, and will have official talks with Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed.

Talks With President Rahman

JN092153 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 9 May 81

[Kazim Nuri dispatch]

[Text] Dacca, 9 May (INA)--Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman received here this evening Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister.

President Ziaur Rahman expressed to Ramadan his deep appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's proposal to establish a fund to compensate the developing countries that are suffering from the rise in inflation exported to them by the capitalist countries. He said that this proposal is a positive formula to alleviate the economic crisis of the developing countries.

The Bangladesh president stressed his interest in the relations between his country and Iraq. He added that the results of the visit to Dacca made by Ramadan and his delegation will promote the relations between the two countries.

President Ziaur Rahman requested Ramadan to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his wishes of progress and prosperity for the Iraqi president and people.

The Bangladesh president and the Iraqi official discussed the Arab and international situation, particularly the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

The meeting was attended by Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade; Muhammad Fadil, public works and housing minister; and Bangladesh Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed.

The Iraqi and Bangladesh sides held a session earlier under Ramadan and Bangladesh Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman. The discussions dealt with means to develop relations in the various fields, particularly concerning economic and trade issues and the exchange of trade delegations to increase the volume of trade.

The two sides also discussed the issue of providing wider opportunities for the Bangladesh companies working in the field of construction and building and to step up their participation in implementing Iraqi projects. President Ziaur Rahman held a dinner at the presidential palace in honor of Ramadan and his delegation.

Meeting With Abdus Sattar

BK091305 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, now on a visit to Bangladesh, called on Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar in Dacca this morning. During the meeting the deputy prime minister lauded the role of Bangladesh on international issues.

Taha Ramadan particularly appreciated the efforts of President Ziaur Rahman in resolving the war between Iran and Iraq and hoped the Islamic good will mission will be successful in finding a solution to the issue.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister recalled the historical, religious and traditional ties existing between them and hoped that the bonds of fraternal ties between the two countries will be further strengthened in future.

Vice President Justice Sattar, reciprocating the sentiments expressed by the Iraqi leaders, said the visit will help toward closer relationship between two Muslim countries. He hoped that the war between Iraq and Iran, the Muslim nations, would come to an end soon. The vice president also appreciated the help extended to Bangladesh by Iraq.

Trade Agreements

BK110717 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 81

[Excerpts] Bangladesh and Iraq have signed seven agreements. The agreements are economic and technical cooperation, a long-term trade agreement, a 2-year executive program for cultural and scientific cooperation beginning July this year, agreement for $87.5 lakh for Khulna cement [word indistinct] factory, agreement for $75 lakh for Habigunj-Ashuganj gas transmission project and memorandum of understanding to take 6000 skilled personnel and 150 instructors as well as on cooperation in the fishery sector. Besides, Iraq has extended another project loan of $3 crore to Bangladesh the project, [words indistinct] be submitted to Iraq later.

Under the trade agreement, Bangladesh will export to Iraq raw jute, jute manufactures, jute carpets, newsprint, paper, rayon yarn, cellophane, hard board, particle board, frozen shrimp, drugs and medicines, electrical wires and cables, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, tea, leather, specializied textiles, tamarind, coir yarn and [words indistinct]. In return, Iraq will export to Bangladesh petroleum products, asphalt, kate, sulphur, phosphate, cement, cement [word indistinct]; pesticides, raw cotton, electrical goods and engineering goods. The agreement shall remain valid for 3 years with provision to extension for another 3 years. The agreement provides for the most favored nation treatment in the matter of trade and mode of payments. It also facilitates the opening of trade centers and holding of trade fairs in each other's territory. A provision of exchange of visits of businessmen and trade delegations between the two countries has been included in the agreement.

Talking to newsmen after the signing ceremony, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and leader of the delegation Taha Yasin Ramadan said the agreements would play constructive role between the two friendly countries. His government will see that the agreements are implemented for the benefit of the two peoples and governments. Ramadan congratulated the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman and his efforts to build a prosperous Bangladesh.

Taha Yasin Ramadan left Dacca for home this afternoon at the end of his 3-day official visit to Bangladesh. Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman and Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed saw him off at Kurmitola International Airport.

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST GANDHI REJECTED

BK090807 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 May 81

[Excerpt] The Lok Sabha has rejected the no-confidence motion against Mrs Gandhi's government. The rejection came after an 11-hour marathon debate which went beyond 0200 this morning. With 275 members voting against it and 90 in its favor, the motion moved by George Fernandes, Lok Dal, was declared lost by speaker amidst loud cheers from the ruling party members. All opposition parties except Dravida Munnetra Kazhagham and Muslim League voted in favor of the motion.

Finance Minister R. Venkataraman, who replied on behalf of the government to the various charges levelled by the opposition, asserted that a marked improvement was brought about in the economy since his party came to power early last year. The economy was in a state of delirium when they inherited it. Now it has been completely rehabilitated from a near stagnation to one of moderate growth.

Referring to the criticism about the prime minister's visit to Geneva at this time, he said it would be improper not to honor international commitments.

The no-confidence motion has come as an epilogue to the 11-week-long budget session in which the issues raised now were already discussed.

About the charges that the government policies are against the interests of workers, the finance minister asserted that the government has taken the serious view in all matters of labor dispute.

Winding up the debate, George Fernandes maintained that the ruling party has betrayed the faith (?reposed) in it by the people of India. While moving the motion he charged the government with total failure in fulfilling the election promises of the ruling party. He said the alarming increase in prices and the failure of the law-and-order machinery in several parts of the country has been causing a grave distress to the common man. During the debate, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader said the country is going through a crisis of confidence and people are getting restless and corruption is rampant. A Communist Party of India member accused the government of following the policy of wage restrictions. [Name indistinct], the Socialist member, said that atrocities on Harijans and minorities are on the increase. Forward bloc members were of the view that multinationals are making inroads into vital sectors of the national economy. A Revolutionary Socialist Party member said: We are nowhere near the goal of meeting the basic needs of the people.

On the other hand, the Ruling Party members questioned the motive behind the motion. Pointing out that the prime minister has gone abroad on an important mission and her program was made known much earlier, the Congress-I members said the opposition intention was to embarass the government and weaken the voice of the nation in international forum.

The All-Indian Radio parliamentary correspondent says the debate was punctuated by many acrimonious exchanges and political overtones. On a number of occasions the members' speeches were drowned in noisy interruptions. Soon after the no-confidence motion against the government was rejected, the Lok Sabha speaker, Bal Ram Jhakkar, adjourned the house sine die.

CUBAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR NONALIGNED MEETING

FL072014 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today arrived in New Delhi, India, to participate in a meeting of the Nonaligned Movement peace commission charged with finding a solution to the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

The Cuban foreign minister will meet with other members of the group to exchange views. Other members of the commission are the foreign ministers of Zambia, India and the chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization Political Department. The meeting of the peace commission will open tomorrow in New Delhi, according to an official announcement. According to scheduled plans, the group will later travel to Tehran and Baghdad to continue its efforts aimed at finding a political, peaceful, just and honorable solution to this armed conflict between Iran and Iraq.

MINISTER CLARIFIES GANDHI STATEMENT ON WAR

BK081605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] The external affairs minister today strongly refuted an opposition member's charge in the Rajya Sabha that Mrs Gandhi is creating a war psychosis in the country by maintaining that a war is imminent. In fact, she has done nothing like this but only called upon the nation to be alert about its defense.

Narashima Rao was replying to a half-hour discussion on the British prime minister's statement about the U.S. deliveries of arms to Pakistan and the British nationality bill, which was raised by Rameshwar Singh, Lok Dal.

AFP: DELHI MAGAZINE REPORTS ALLEGED COUP PLOT

BK081522 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] New Delhi, 8 May (AFP)--Army commanders based in northeastern India met recently to discuss operational and tactical details of a plot to overthrow the central government, a communist member alleged in the upper house of Parliament here today.

Citing a report in the New Delhi magazine India Today, the member, Kalyan Roy of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI), expressed serious concern and demanded a statement and investigation by the government. The magazine report said, "Though the possibility of an army coup in India is still rather remote, that has not prevented certain top commanders from planning for such an eventuality." It added that at the top secret conference complaints were voiced against the manner in which ruling party members were interfering with the working of the Defence Ministry. "Misuse of the military for political ends and growing economic chaos in the country" were mentioned at the conference as other reasons justifying a military takeover, the magazine said.

In the absence of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who is concurrently defence minister, now on a tour abroad, no minister responded to the demand of the communist member.

GANDHI'S SON TO CONTEST PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

BK110757 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Rajiv Gandhi will contest the byelection to the Lok Sabha from the Amethi parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh. This was announced by Congress-I General Secretary Vasantrao Patil at a press conference in New Delhi. Mr Rajiv Gandhi left early this morning for Amethi to file his nomination papers.

POLICE UNCOVER GUN FACTORIES IN BIHARSHARIF

BK100344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Curfew has been relaxed for 9 hours from 0800 to 1700 following improvement in the situation in Biharsharif town. The state chief minister, Dr Jagannath Mishra, has said that no untoward incident has taken place during the last 3 days in the entire Nalanda district. He said that the police has uncovered 80 gun factories in a statewide drive against illegal arms. Huge quantities of arms and ammunition have also been seized: 26 underground gun-making units were detected in Biharsharif alone.

MOROCCAN SPECIAL EMISSARY LEAVES FOR HOME

BK100628 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Ahmed Osman, the special emissary of King Hassan of Morocco, left for home this morning after his visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport, he said that his talks with President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and other officials were useful and satisfactory and that they exchanged views on the Afghanistan issue and the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. There is an identity of views on these problems, he said, adding that Pakistan-Moroccan relations are very deep. During his stay in Pakistan, the Moroccan special emissary delivered a message from King Hassan to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Foreign Secretary Riaz Piracha bid him farewell.

HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS

BK090813 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of the Hungarian People's Republic, Dr Vencel Hazi, left Karachi this morning at the end of a week's visit to Pakistan. He was seen off by Foreign Ministry officials.

AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL EXERCISES BEGIN 8 MAY

BK081725 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] A countrywide operational exercise of the Pakistan Air Force [PAF] Jetstream 1981 began today. The exercise, in which PAF's different combat elements are taking part, is a continuation of the efforts to further improve the operational effectiveness of the Air Force. On the first day of the exercise, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwal Shamim visited different sectors. In his order of the day, the air chief marshal urged the PAF personnel to continue striving to attain the highest operational preparedness to fulfill the sacred duty to safeguarding the geographical and ideological frontiers.

President Inspects Exercises

BK101613 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq spend the day with the Pakistan Air Force. He was apprised of the objectives of the Jetstream 1981 exercises, being carried out for the third day today. The president was briefed on the air defense operations and strategies carried out under the objectives of these exercises when he visited the command operation center. Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur, Minister of Finance Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Minister for Production and National Logistic Board Lt Gen Saeed Qadir were also present on the occasion. The president was told about the major successes of the past three exercises in the Jetstream series and the prospects of the present exercise. In another briefing the president was apprised of the details of air defense aspects these exercises and the steps which are being taken to strengthen the air defense system. During the talks, Chief of the Air Force Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shmim clarified the steps which have been approved by the government to enhance the effectiveness of the defense capability of the Air Force. Later, the president was taken to the operations room where he was informed of the situation of the third day of the air force exercises. Later, the president, along with the federal ministers and the chief of staff of the air force, proceeded toward an exercising sector. He inspected the facilities for air defense in the sector and witnessed the equipment kept there for this purpose. He was told of the air defense situation in one of the units and a practical display of interceping an aircraft was given. The president met with the men in a cadet unit and talked to them about their responsibilities in the exercises. He also met with the pilots and airmen engaged in air defense and counter air attacks.

RAJA'I CHAIRS SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL SESSION

LD090914 Tehran PARS in English 0736 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 9 May (PARS)--The Supreme Defense Council met last evening in Tehran under the prime minister, Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. In this meeting, which was also attended by the imam's representative in the council, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i as well as deputy chief of staff, General Fallahi; minister of defense and air force commander, Colonel Fakuri; and the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp (IRGC), Morteza Reza'i, the general war strategies were discussed and decisions were taken regarding the Panamanian-registered oil survey ship held by Iran. Speaking on the issues discussed in this meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, the spokesman of the council, said, "Views were exchanged on the Panamanian ship which was anchored on the continental shelf between Iran and Kuwait, and which is now being held by Iran at the Bushehr Port. Decisions were taken in this regard which, God willing, would be implemented. A report in this connection will be made public in a near future." Referring to the warfronts, the spokesman said that the enemy was on the defensive in the western fronts and that the situation in the said fronts was quite good. In the southern battlefronts also "the situation is calm and good and there is no noticeable activities in the south," added he. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i concluded by saying that all the regions along the border strip of Kordestan, in the west of the country, were under the full control of the Iranian combatants.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI CONFERS WITH ISLAMIC DIPLOMATS

LD092208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that ambassadors, charges d'affaires and representatives of Islamic countries to Iran this morning met and conferred with Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the political adviser to the prime minister. This meeting, which lasted for more than 2 hours, began with the recitation of several verses from the Holy Koran. Then the political adviser to the prime minister elaborated on the foreign policies followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the present policy of Islamic countries in not being neutral in the war imposed by the Iraqi regime on Iran and the reason behind Iraq's military aggression against Iran, he said: Our country's foreign policy does not rely on the policy of "Neither East nor West" as a mere slogan. We practice this policy, too. Iraq's military aggression against Iran challenges the existance of the Islamic Republic. Since Iran opposes America, U.S. imperialism intends to defeat this regime and crush all the Islamic liberation movements. This is one of the U.S. conspiracies that is being gradually implemented against us. He recounted the reasons behind Saddam's attack on Iranian territory and his rejection of the 1975 Algerian treaties, which was signed by Iran and Iraq, and said that, in following his mission of attacking Iran, Saddam had two objectives in mind--to militarily defeat Iran and to replace the power of the dead shah in the region. He said: We do not consider Saddam's attack on Iran as a result of border conflicts. This attack results from his expansionist ideas. Saddam has claimed that he intends to liberate the Arabs in Khuzestan from Iranian rule. However, in the attack launched by his forces against our country he is killing and dismembering our Khuzestani brothers.

Requests Delay of Iraqi Meeting

LD092006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 81

[Interview with Iranian Prime Minister's Political Adviser Mohammad Hashemi Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent following 9 May meeting in Tehran with ambassadors of Islamic countries--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Hashemi, would you be good enough to explain the reason behind your meeting here today with Islamic ambassadors?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, the 12th Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference is scheduled to convene in Baghdad on 31 May. In view of the existing war between Iran and Iraq, a war imposed on us by Saddam, we regard such a conference as a kind of support accorded by the Islamic countries to Saddam's regime. Given that the Islamic conference has formed a mission that is conducting its task, we told the Islamic ambassadors in Tehran that should the conference be held in Baghdad, from our point of view this would be a kind of support because the question of neutrality is at stake, and since the conference has appointed a delegation for peace, it would be better for the member countries to remain impartial and not interfere.

[Question] Does this mean that you have asked them not to attend the conference?

[Answer] We asked them to postpone the conference until the end of the current Iraqi-Iranian war.

Khamene'i Reiterates Opposition

LD101224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Hojjat Ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Friday imam of Tehran, in the company of Hannati, a member of the Council of Guardians, arrived in Tabriz this morning to take part in a seminar of the clergy. In a short interview with PARS, the Friday imam described the situation at the warfronts as very good. As for the forthcoming conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Baghdad, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to this. We say that since the Iraqi regime has imposed this war upon us, this conference should not be held in that country.

NONALIGNED MEDIATION COMMITTEE ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD101218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] According to PARS and the Central News Bureau, the nonaligned select committee arrived in Tehran this morning. This committee, which consists of the ministers of foreign affairs of India, Cuba, Zambia and the head of the PLO Political Department and its UN representative, was welcomed by political advisors to the president and the prime minister and several other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the same report, a member of the committee, answering reporters' questions at Mehrabad Airport, read out the following announcement by the committee:

The committee discussed different aspects of the regretful war between Iraq and Iran at a 8-9 May meeting in New Delhi. The ministers of foreign affairs of India, Cuba and Zambia and the head of the PLO Political Department have decided to continue their efforts to fully implement the directive given them by the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in New Delhi. The nonaligned select committee, having analyzed the results of its previous meetings in Tehran and Baghdad and having reviewed the latest developments in the war, have come to realize the necessity and urgency of taking steps toward resolving this conflict.

In another part of this announcement it is said: The continuation of this conflict will not only result in a considerable loss of lives and property damage but will have grave effects on the countries of the region, will increasingly threaten world peace and security, and will also endanger the unity of the Nonaligned Movement, of which Iran and Iraq are members.

In conclusion, the announcement says: The committee hopes to have fruitful exchanges with Iranian officials on ways of ending this conflict satisfactorily.

Meets With Bani-Sadr

LD101216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau reporter, the nonaligned select committee that arrived in Tehran today met with President Bani-Sadr this morning. At this meeting, which lasted for more than 90 minutes, the committee's proposals to find a fundamental solution to end the war were reviewed.

The report indicates that at the end of this meeting the spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described these proposals as hopeful and noteworthy.

Cuban, PLO Officials on Meeting

LD101716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] PARS reports that at a meeting today between the nonaligned peace mission and President Bani-Sadr, the mission made proposals on ending the war. An exchange of views was held regarding the various dimensions of these proposals. The report says that the proposals are to be raised by the president at the next session of the Supreme Defense Council and that the proposals and the Supreme Defense Council's reply will be announced with the next 2 days.

The report says that in an interview on the result of the mission's meeting with our country's president, the Cuban foreign minister said:

We are very happy and satisfied with the outcome of the meeting and we are endeavoring to find a solution to end the war.

The same report says Faruq Quddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said after the peace mission's meeting with the president: We gave our proposals to Bani-Sadr and we hope to receive a satisfactory reply in this regard. We shall endavor to achieve fruitful results from our visits and meetings.

In answer to a question on whether the mission was able to condemn the aggressor, he said: The mission's obligation is to carry out whatever it is entrusted to do.

In answer to a question on whether the mission hoped to find a final solution to the problem, the head of the PLO Political Department said: We are seeking a just solution.

Council Considers Proposals

LD102110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Supreme Defense Council held an extraordinary session tonight in Tehran chaired by Bani-Sadr, the supreme commander, and attended by Prime Minister Raja'i, acting chief of the Joint Staff; Brig Gen Fallah; Colonel Fakuri, the defense minister; and Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. New proposals by the Nonaligned Movement were discussed. At the end of the session, the correspondent of the Central News Bureau interviewed Commander in Chief Bani-Sadr.

[Begin recording] [Question] What is the most important matter discussed at the session?

[Answer] The proposals of the four foreign ministers.

[Question] It was agreed that the proposals would be announced following a session of the Defense Council. Could you discuss... [Bani-Sadr interrupts]

[Answer] We read these proposals tonight. We will have another session tomorrow and will also ask for the imam's opinion. Then we will decide.

[Question] So this group will be in Iran tomorrow as well?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] I do not know if they will be here or not. However, we will have a session tomorrow.

[Question] Will you give them a final answer tomorrow?

[Answer] Yes, I hope so.

[Question] Thank you very much.

Committee Leaves for Baghdad

GF111106 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] PARS reports that the nonaligned delegation commissioned to study the war Iraq has imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran--which arrived in Tehran yesterday--left for Baghdad at 1045 today following the conclusion of its talks with Iranian officials.

SPOKESMAN ON GOOD WILL MISSION, KUWAITI SHIP

LD101348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Bureau, this morning Government Spokesman Bahzad Nabavi held a press, radio and television conference attended by Iranian and foreign journalists and answered their questions.

In reply to a reporter's question about the good will mission coming to Iran several times and what he thought these comings and goings would lead to, Nabavi said: It travels to Iran and Iraq to become familiar with the positions of both sides, but we have no particular expectations about whether it will be successful or not. It should investigate the positions of both sides and then make a judgement at the international levels.

Regarding the detained Kuwaiti ship, he said: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pursuing this issue. The story is: This ship has committed aggression in Iranian waters and despite numerous reminders it did not leave our waters. Therefore, it has been detained. The Kuwaiti Government has also taken some steps in this regard, the results of which will be announced later.

[Paris AFP in English at 1312 GMT on 9 May reports from Tehran that "The Panamanian-registered scientific research ship Western Sea, boarded by Iranian coastguards in the gulf one week ago and escorted into the port of Bushehr, will be allowed to sail in a matter of days, a Kuwaiti Embassy source indicated here today."]

Regarding the contract between the Iranian company and the British Talbot company he said: Negotiations were held, but there were no contracts. The negotiations consisted of a series of talks. This issue was raised at economic mobilization headquarters and it has been decided that a commission should investigate this case, the results of which will be announced later.

Regarding the $56-million [arms swindle] and those involved in it, the government spokesman explained: The talks were general. Given the special circumstances, we need arms. Cases of this kind crop up. They must not be raised as propaganda, but we have made inquiries. I can talk about one of them. One of the under secretaries of the Defense Ministry, the under secretary for logistics, who had been arrested in connection with the abortive Nowzheh coup d'etat was responsible for the purchase. When such a person holds office, such difficulties are likely to take place. Of course, there are other cases regarding war issues that we did not consider proper to raise.

Another reporter said: The current budget will increase our dependence on foreign countries. The government spokesman replied: We ourselves have declared that although a revolution has taken place in our country and our country has become politically independent, it is still economically dependent. We get what we need from other countries and therefore we must have enough currency to import commodities. If next year we import what the society does not need, then it will mean that our efforts have been directed toward more dependence. But if wheat is not imported, then we shall not be able to do anything. This is what our country needs and we have to import it; we understand that this means dependence. But there is no alternative to eliminating this. Becoming economically independent is a gradual job.

MAJLIS TO HEAR REPORT ON HOSTAGES ISSUE 12 MAY

LD101312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 81

[Excerpt] Today's open session of the Majlis ended at 1300. The next open session of the Majlis will be held at 0730 on Thursday. The Islamic Majlis will hold a closed session on Tuesday to hear the report of the minister of state for executive affairs in connection with the issue of the hostages and the $56-million [arms swindle].

SPOKESMAN ON POLITICAL FREEDOMS, DEBTS REPAYMENT

LD101912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 81

[Interview with Government Spokesman Behzad Nabavi by unidentified correspondent on 10 May--recorded; place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Regarding the recent marches, people have questioned why the government has allowed certain groups such as the Cherikha-ye Fada'i-ye Khalq and the Tudeh Party to stage marches but has banned others from marching and whether this is tantamount to a compromise with these groups.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Unfortunately, the idea is current not only among the people but also among some officials that if a group operates solely within the Constitution, then it is necessarily good. No, there is no reason to assume that merely because a group is operating within the framework of the Constitution it is a good group that supports the revolution. Such a group has decided that it should carry out its struggle by exploiting political freedoms. If we were to put it simply, the policy of these groups is to try to cut someone's throat by using a soft object.

But we, too, should be alert to this; we cannot have an identical approach to a group that says that it wants to operate within the framework of the Constitution and to a group that states that it aims to fight us with arms. The group that says it wants to fight with arms cannot be requested not to do so, for when it is waging a war against us we have to fight it, too. However, within the framework of the law we shall allow the group that says that it is prepared to operate within the criteria we set to engage in its activity even though we know that it is against the Islamic republic, that it is against Islam and that it does not believe in Islam in its entirety. However, this does not mean that we have granted such a group immunity. Unfortunately, it was believed in the past that if a group did not fight us, then consequently it was good. No, there are various ways of struggling against the Islamic republic, one of which is taking up arms. Another way is political activity.

[Question] Another issue concerns the funds owed by Elqanian [Jewish businessmen executed following the revolution], by [Princess] Ashraf, by the shah and others. What is the situation, and why is the government silent on the matter?

[Answer] Are you talking about the issue of the hostages?

[Question] Yes.

[Answer] We were with the imam and we asked his permission to discuss these matters in detail and to raise issues that might not be appropriate to raise now in light of the war. The imam did not allow us to do that, but, to allay any misunderstanding among compatriots, I would like to say that things are not as they appear. The debts repaid are from certain firms under government control and Iranian banks that have now been nationalized according to the Banks Nationalization Act and that have provided collateral, including the Central Bank. Debts have also been repaid by certain enterprises in which Ashraf or Elqanian may have had stakes. I ought to mention that we are in a situation in which our money is under U.S. control. We could not act like the bully and say: No, we will not repay the debt because we have twice as much funds in U.S. banks as the debt itself. Well, they would have said that those debts have been guaranteed by your banks, including your Central Bank.

RAJA'I CHAIRS SESSION OF SECURITY COUNCIL 10 MAY

LD101730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Security Council met this afternoon with Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i in the chair. The meeting was also attended by the interior minister, the commander of the gendarmerie, the acting commander of the army, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the director general of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting reviewed the country's security issues, in particular that in western Azarbayjan. The meeting ended at 1700.

Meets With Ayatollahs in Qom

LD081332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Raja'i; Mohammad Hashemi, political deputy for the prime minister; and 'Abbaspur, minister of energy, this morning met in Qom with their great eminences Ayatollah Golpaygani, Ayatollah Mar'ashi Nafaji and Ayatollah Montazeri. According to this report, in these meetings various national problems were discussed and investigated.

PARS this morning reported that Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and Prime Minister Raja'i will meet with their greater eminences in Qom today. We hereby correct the PARS report.

After his meetings today, the prime minister answered questions from our reporter:

[Begin recording] [Question] I would be grateful if you could explain to our audience the subjects that were discussed.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Various topics were discussed in the presence of his great eminence Ayatollah Golpaygani. He made a number of emphatic recommendations concerning the general situation in the country. We promised that, God willing, we would first of all explain the issues he was worried about and if there were some problems we would solve them. As you know, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Mar'ashi was in Spain. He returned from Spain with valuable information, which he explained to us. There were issues in this connection that we hope to pass on to all the Iranian embassies, especially in Spain, where certain possibilities exist for the propagation of Islam.

His Great Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, in whose house we are at the moment, fortunately has an active role in the social affairs of the city. He explained about certain issues of the city; he had some general guidelines for prisons throughout the country and for drug addiction.

I hope God will enable all of us, especially the organizations that have greater responsibilities to fulfill the wishes of these beloved ones. In any case, we emphasized the importance of the treatment of drug addicts and we hope we can pursue this.

On the whole, I hope the relationship between the government and the maraje' [main sources of spiritual imitation] will be useful and effective in strengthening the Islamic republic. [end recording]

Discuss Qom Visit With Cabinet

GF091206 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] During today's Cabinet session, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i informed the Cabinet about the results of his visit to Qom, his frutiful talks with the ayatollahs, and their directives and instructions on various national issues.

During the session, the Cabinet discussed the founding of village service centers and decided to form a committee under the minister of state for executive affairs to study the project and inform the cabinet about it. The government then resumed the discussion on establishing planning councils all over the country. Plan and budget oranization officials attended. It was decided to hand the project over to the Cabinet technical committee for discussion.

BANI-SADR RECEIVES GROUP OF MAJLIS DEPUTIES

LD081752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] A group of deputies from the Islamic Majlis met with Abolhasan Bani-Sadr this evening. They exchanged opinions on various issues and problems of the country.

According to the same report, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also met with the president today. At this meeting, current affairs of the country were discussed.

Meets Military Leaders 9 May

LD091905 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] According to the PARS Report, a meeting was held this afternoon in the headquarters of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the presence of Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief of the armed forces, and with the participation of the acting joint chief of staff, commanders of the air force and the navy, and the acting commander of the army. Command issues were reviewed.

FALLAHI INTERVIEWED ON MEETING WITH KHOMEYNI

LD091950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 81

[Interview with Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, by unidentified correspondent following meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni in Tehran on 9 May--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Together with the air force, ground forces, naval, police and other commanders, you were received in audience today by the leader of the revolution. Could you please tell us what issues were discussed during the audience with the imam?

[Answer] Yes. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you may well know, in accordance with procedure, together with the commanders of the armed forces we have the honor of being received in audience by the imam once every 2 weeks. Today I humbly presented him with a general and overall report on the situation at the fronts and I begged to inform him about the total ideological, physical and weaponry preparedness, the state of equipment and other requirements for conducting operations by the ground forces, the air force, the gendarmerie, the police, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the staff command of irregular operations, the devotees of Islam, the tribal and other mobilization forces and various other forces of the people. Another issue I informed him about was connected with the fact that we have no problems whatsoever with regard to cooperation and coordination among all the combatants throughout the region and that we enjoy mutual cooperation, coordination and understanding. All the combatants are unanimous that they are sufficiently armed with the faith that they should continue the war until victory is achieved and that they should conduct these operations vigorously and decisively. There is no obstacle whatsoever from the psychological, equipment and personnel viewpoints in conducting war operations.

[Question] What was the imam's attitude to this?

[Answer] Just as I said before, we are grateful to the people's unstinting support. We beg for this support to continue and undoubtedly it will. We believe that our political and military victory would appreciably change the world's political outlook to the advantage of the deprived. As we have no major, fundamental problems today, and everything is concerned with hope, victory, steadfastness and strength, the imam was pleased and visibly happy. We did not have a single issue that required any special gracious guidelines.

MONTAZERI WARNS OF CORRUPT GROUPS, CRITICIZES POPE

LD081310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 May 81

[Excerpt] The glorious and unifying Friday prayers in Qom were held under the leadership of Ayatollah Montazeri with the participation of a large number of the committed and struggling people of this city.

In his first sermon in the Friday prayer ceremony, Ayatollah Montazeri interrupted the Sura of Nas, talked about the insinuations of Satanic people in society, and warned the youth who are more emotional than intellectual or rational to be careful not to get caught in the trap of suspicious and corrupt groups and make sure they did not blindly follow them. Think about the probability that your leaders and mentors may be wrong. See how an organization that had an Islamic mask has suddenly rotted away from within and fallen into the lap of communism, how genuine strugglers like the martyr Majid Sharif-Vaqefi and martyr Morteza Samadiyyeh-Labbaf were brutally killed because they did not want to blindly submit to that organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq], and how many girls were led into corrupt ways.

You young people should think more carefully and with greater caution about various groups. You should try never to become separated from the gatherings and societies of the Muslims. The groups are trying to fill your leisure time with deviationist books and pamphlets so that you cannot read genuine Islamic books and cannot reach the fountainhead of this life-giving ideology.

You should know that your leaders have other corrupt ideas in their brains.

For the sake of the blood of the martyrs, do not weaken the Islamic republic. For the sake of preserving and prolonging the Islamic republic, do not do things at your limited and small gatherings and do not carry out unwise actions that will provide propaganda fodder for foreign media.

In his second sermon, Ayatollah Montazeri made the following points:

1. [Passage omitted expressing his condolences on the anniversary of the death of the 10th imam]

2. He warned: Do not chant slogans in my favor. Try to chant slogans only in support of Islam and the leader of the revolution, who is the guarantor of unity and the continuation of the Islamic revolution.

3. Referring to the guidelines of the imam, who has said that Islam is the protector of the oppressed people, he added: The Islamic revolution has the duty to support all liberation movements in the world. Therefore, our Muslim nation finds its duty to support the struggle of the heroic people of Ireland against the old British imperialism. Referring to the brave resistance of the heroic Irish guerrilla Bobby Sands, whose struggle led to his death, Atatollah Montazeri said: It would have been appropriate if the Catholic leaders and the pope had expressed their hatred and denunciation of British imperialism. Unfortunately, they said nothing.

4. Referring to the floods in Khorasan and the damage caused, he said: As we were involved in the war we neglected this matter, although the leader of the revolution and the government have been thinking about it. But as our compatriots have suffered great losses, it is the duty of our Muslim and valiant people to assist them in accordance with their ability. Ayatollah Montazeri also asked the government to provide the necessary assistance in this connection. He hoped for patience and endurance for all those who have suffered as a result of this tragic event.

AYATOLLAH ON STANDING UP TO COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

LD081628 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 May 81

[Excerpts] The unifying and enemy-crushing Friday prayers were held this morning at the University of Tehran under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i with the participation of a large number of the Islamic revolution's true followers of the well-chosen imams, may God's blessings be upon all of them.

According to the Central News Bureau, before the prayer sermons Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Mardi spoke in deatil about progress and obstacles in the revolution's path from the viewpoint of Islam. In a part of his speech referring to counterrevolutionary conspiracies, which block the progress of our Islamic revolution, he referred to the main weapon of the enemies of the revolution--to besmirch the main personalities of the revolution--and said: At first, the enemy engaged in assassinating some leading figures such as Motahhari, Mofatteh and Qazi. However, their actions increased the people's awareness and steadfastness and the maturity of the Islamic revolution.

He said: In the same context, the counterrevolutionaries have started a new conspiracy: forging documents and accusing our influential Islamic personalities.

He asked the people to stand up to the counterrevolutionaries and their deceits as they neutralized former conspiracies through their vigilance, and to safeguard the revolution until the conditions are provided for the universal revolution of the Mahdi [the hidden imam], may God expedite his glorious appearance.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khameme'i, Friday imam of Tehran, then gave the prayer sermons.

He said: At the moment, I see hypocritical activities inside our Islamic society. The hypocrites have direct contacts with universal infidelity and are acting in the interest of its domination. Referring to the positions taken by Israeli radio, the BBC and other imperialist media, which strengthens the hypocritical progress inside the Islamic republic, he said: This is our best proof that at present the activities of the hypocrites are the means of fighting against Islam and the path of God and of paving the way for U.S., British and Soviet paths.

Referring to the Koranic verse about Zerar Mosque, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said: The believers should never compromise with such a movement but should decisively withstand it. They should take a position in a mosque and behind a fortress based on piety. One should show no leniency toward hypocrisy.

In another part of his speech, the Friday imam of Tehran glorified the memory of Bobby Sands, the Irish freedom fighter, and said: With his valiant death he shook the rotten British empire and world imperialism. The Friday imam of Tehran said: I ask all Irish fighters and those who follow the path of Bobby Sands to remain steadfast because we know your affliction and that your victory is certain.

PETROLEUM OFFICIAL SUMMARIZES FOREIGN TOUR

LD081812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, Hasan Sadat, the acting petroleum minister of the Islamic republic, who visited four African countries at the head of a delegation, returned to Tehran today. On his return from Libya, Algeria, Gabon and Nigeria, he participated in an interview, saying that the Iranian oil delegation held fruitful talks with the officials of the four OPEC African members on issues of mutual interest, particularly concerning the oil market situation, which has brought about certain difficulties for some exporting countries because supply exceeds demand. He added that in Libya, talks were held with 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, the second highest-ranking man in the country, who is an expert on oil. Similarly, we held talks in Nigeria with that country's vice president.

In reply to a question on his views concerning the remarks made by Zaki Yamani, the Saudi petroleum minister, with regard to oil production and prices, Sadat said that Yamani merely expressed his personal view.

In the forthcoming OPEC meetings to be held in early Khordad in Geneva, each OPEC member will state its views about production volumes and prices. He added that in Nigeria petroleum ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gabon and Nigeria discussed issues of mutual interests within an OPEC context. The talks were quite successful.

The acting petroleum minister went on to say that last night, during a stopover in Turkey, the Turkish ministers of energy, labor and foreign affairs visited the hotel where the Iranian petroleum delegation was staying and expressed their country's respect for and interest in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

FOREIGN REPORTERS VISIT WESTERN BATTLEFRONTS

LD081718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] According to PARS, a group of foreign reporters and cameramen who were dispatched to battlefronts in the west of the country by the propaganda headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council observed the bravery and victories of the forces of Islam over the forces of blasphemy.

During this trip, the foreign reporters visited Nowdesheh District, 200 km from Kermanshah on the Uramanat Heights, which has recently been cleansed of the polluted presence of counterrevolutionary elements and corrupt groups. They also visited Bazi Deraz heights, which was recently recaptured by the forces of Islam.

According to this report, the local people played an outstanding part in mopping up counterrevolutionary elements in the area. The local people declared they would not permit corrupt groups to infiltrate under any circumstances.

Mohammad Khaleqi, the leader of the military group Komleh, who surrendered himself to the forces of Islam, told a French reporter: The clash with the Islamic republic is in the interests of Iraq's Ba'thist regime; only Saddam reaps benefit from these clashes. Replying to a question by one of the reporters, who asked why he had continued fighting against the central government, he said: Because of the lack of understanding on the part of myself and the people I led. He added: Of course, during the past 2 years we have earned a great deal of money from selling arms.

At the end of their visit, the foreign reporters and cameramen attended a press conference given by the commander of operations for the western region. During the press conference, Colonel 'Attarpur described the situation and then answered reporters' questions. The commander, stressing the point that in his calculations Saddam had made an error, said: Victory will be achieved by the forces of Islam, with reliance on God and with the cooperation and coordination that exists between the army, the guards corps and the mobilization forces. Finally he referred to the mode of fighting, saying: Unlike the forces of blasphemy, our forces refrain from attacking Muslim and defenseless people; our targets are solely enemy military positions.

On the final day of their visit to the western battlefronts, the reporters inspected Iraqi tanks captured by the combative forces of Islam. They then returned to Tehran.

'OUTLAW ELEMENTS' ATTACK BASE, REPULSED 6 MAY

LD091548 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] An attack by armed outlaw elements on the (Begom) gendarmerie base in Naqadeh was repulsed thanks to retaliatory fire by the gendarmerie combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Casualties, which could not accurately be assessed, were also inflicted on the assailants. A PARS dispatch from Urumiyah, quoting the political office of the West Azarbayjan governorate general, says: This clash began at 2130 on 6 May with an attack launched by armed outlaws and lasted some 20 minutes. No losses were suffered by the combatants of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

GUARDS-TEACHERS CLASHES REPORTED IN DOROUD

NC101346 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 10 May (AFP)--One man was killed and two others wounded this week during clashes between revolution guards and school teachers, backed by some local people, in Doroud, western Iran, the ISLAMIC REVOLUTION newspaper reported here today.

The teachers, who had been sacked by the Education Ministry for their "political opinions", clashed on Thursday with opponents during a street demonstration, the pro-Bani-Sadr paper said.

Revolution guards opened fire when a crowd tried to prevent them from making an arrest, the report added.

SECURITY HEADQUARTERS STATEMENT ON DISORDERS

LD081050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the Tehran security headquarters announced in its 241st statement that in a press conference at security headquarters on Wednesday, 6 May, some comments made there were published distortedly and vaguely in some of the evening newspapers, making some distorted impressions.

In this statement the Tehran security headquarters added: All the believing and committed individuals who follow Islam, obey divine laws and regulations, and perform their alloted duties in maintaining administrative order, which is the order of the Islamic government, are believed to be members of Hezbollah. Wherever they observe any sign of disorder in society, they go to the assistance of legal organs and executive officials and help them in maintainining order and creating security. Tehran security headquarters, in accordance with its religious and revolutionary duties and according to the orders of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will decisively act against any group disturbance [faryad] in an Islamic or non-Islamic pretext that might disturb order and create tensions and clashes against legal gatherings or against those who carry out the law, and will hand over the principal instigators to the judicial authorities.

MAJLIS DEPUTIES UNHAPPY WITH MEDIA WAR COVERAGE

LD081844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] PARS reports that eight Majlis deputies from Kermanshah, Lorestan and Ilam provinces, who today visited the (Bazi Deraz) front in the western part of the country, expressed dissatisfaction with the work of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They said that the radio and television had not properly covered the victories of the combatants of Islam on the battlefronts.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES CITE BATTLE SUCCESSES

Communique 496

LD081830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 81

[Communique 496 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued 8 May]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim struggling compatriots of Iran. The situation on war-fronts during the past 24 hours is brought to your attention:

Yesterday, in addition to the Iraqi MiG that was downed on one of the Abadan fronts--of which you were informed in the last communique--another aircraft of the invading Iraqi Armed Forces was downed in the same area by one of the fast-flying fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also yesterday, another enemy aircraft was downed by the courageous antiaircraft defense personnel in Naftshahr. The selfless forces of Islam fired on enemy positions in Umm ar-Rasas, Sibah and al-Ju'amir in Iraq and inflicted damage on the enemy forces. Several oil tanks in Fao in Iraq were hit by artillery fire and destroyed. On the Abadan front, gunfire by the defenders of the Islamic Revolution of Iran on the positions of Iraqi aggressors destroyed a tank, a cannon, an ammunition depot, a bulldozer, two heavy machinegun positions and an RPG-7 position. Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded.

On the Khuninshahr front, the combatants of the navy destroyed an enemy vehicle carrying ammunition. The enemy once again opened fire on the residential districts of Abadan and Dezful with their heavy artillery and inflicted damage on some houses. In Dezful, gunfire by the brave units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed several enemy trenches and killed or wounded some of Saddam's soldiers.

In (?Abdaran) region of Ilam, firing between our champion forces and the invading enemy killed 10 Iraqi personnel. Exchanges of fire between the forces of Islam and the enemy continued on other western fronts. Our selfless combatants inflicted damage and losses on the enemy. Details have not as yet been reported.

Yesterday, the vigilant personnel of the antiaircraft defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran downed three enemy aircraft and then fired at several other enemy aircraft in the western and southern regions, forcing them to flee.

Two Iraqi soldiers, unable to accept the cruelty of mercenary commanders of Saddam's army, took refuge with the forces of Islam in Naqadeh.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique 497

LD091810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 81

[Communique 497 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued 9 May]

[Text] In His exalted name. Some of the operations carried out by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 48 hours is hereby brought to the attention of the Muslim and struggling compatriots of Iran.

In the (?Tutman) front in Marivan, the combatants of the ground forces fired on the mercenaries of the Iraqi Army, destroying some of their collective and individual entrenchments and one ammunition depot and killing enemy personnel. In addition, enemy positions around Panjwin and Pargineh and other parts of these fronts came under heavy fire by our artillery. Yesterday, an Iraqi soldier surrendered to the forces of Islam in Marivan and asked for asylum.

At 1100 on Thursday, 7 May, the mercenaries of the Iraqi Armed Forces launched a cowardly air raid on several Sar Dasht villages. In these disgraceful attacks, while some material damage was sustained and several houses were ruined, about 25 people, both armed forces personnel and village residents who were held in detention by illegally armed groups, were martyred and about 30 others were injured. The wounded were taken to Marvdasht hospital and are receiving medical care.

In many of the southern and western fronts of the country, the ceaseless fire of the heavy machineguns and other heavy weapons of the combatants of the ground forces continue to pound the mercenary followers of Saddam. In one of the fronts west of Dezful, as a result of fire by these combatants, three tanks, four ammunition depots and one truck carrying ammunition for Saddam's army were set on fire and destroyed. In these operations, enemy personnel were either killed or wounded. In other fronts west of Dezful, the selfless combatants of our forces opened artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions and succeeded in stopping two enemy tanks and destroying one ammunition depot, one ammunition truck, one heavy machinegun emplacement and one mortar launcher emplacement together with the ammunition. In these operations, the combatants of the ground forces killed about 20 of Saddam's forces. Part of the residential district of Dezful came under fire from artillery and long-range weapons yesterday and some damage was sustained by the houses.

In the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, the exchange of artillery and heavy arms fire continued. As a result of fire from our forces, two ammunition trucks, two other vehicles, two observation posts, one heavy machinegun emplacement, one concrete entrenchment in Fao, two individual and collective entrenchments, one RPG-7 emplacement, one ammunition depot and one enemy gathering point were set on fire and destroyed. Several tanks and a 130-mm cannon belonging to the enemy sustained some damages.

In response to our forces' fire, the Iraqi mercenaries once again opened artillery fire on residential sections of Abadan, inflicting some damages on houses and installations. In most Ahvaz and Susangerd fronts, the exchange of fire continued. The selfless fighters of Islam and defenders of the airspace of cities and battlefronts yesterday foiled violations and attacks by airplanes of Saddam's armed forces, which intended to attack several of the country's southern and western towns, and forced them to flee. In the battles of 5 and 6 May, 18 of the proud combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran lost their pure lives in battlefronts and were martyred.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique 498

LD101818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 81

[Communique 498 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In his exalted name, the report on war operations in the western and southern fronts on 8 and 9 May is hereby presented for (?your) information:

1. The fighters of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in their activities across the border, bombed an Iraqi industrial installation in Iraq's Kirkuk area, destroying 90 percent of the installation. In another attack by the hard-working pilots of the air force against the enemy, the positions and personnel of Saddam's army were brought under fire in (Maresh) and the northwestern part of Ahvaz. As yet there is no exact report concerning enemy losses and damage in the area.

2. On the Abadan-Mahshahr axis and the Darkhovin front, the artillery of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran fired at the Iraqi aggressors, causing the destruction of one artillery piece, three vehicles and one fuel storage unit, several enemy trenches and foxholes and the death or wounding of enemy personnel. On the same fronts, the fire of Saddam's soldiers wounded six of our warriors.

3. Artillery and mortar fire continued between our forces and those of the enemy in Dezful. The brave personnel of Islam's army destroyed three tanks, three ammunition dumps, two mortars, some Iraqi mercenary trenches and on the Bin Khosh front set fire to two military vehicles belonging to the aggressors. During the operations, some of Saddam at-Tikriti's soldiers were killed.

4. The fighters of the Navy of the Army [as heard] of the Islamic Republic of Iran, continuing their efforts, destroyed one observation post, one ammunition dump and several enemy trenches in the occupied part of Khuninshahr by the use of their light and heavy arms fire.

5. A column of fighters of the Ground Forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran fire at enemy positions on the Allaho Akbar Heights and destroyed one tank, one vehicle, two aggressor Iraqi trenches and killed or wounded some Iraqis. The return of fire by Saddam's mercenaries against the operations of the heroes of the proud army of Islam--due to their inability and disappointment--was concentrated in rocket and heavy arms fire against residential areas in Abadan, Dezful, Ahav and Andimeshk. Some houses were destroyed and some of our compatriots were martyred or wounded in those cities. They thereby added another shameful page to their black record.

7. [As heard] Due to artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran against [names indistinct] posts north of (Bangru), one building and some military vehicles were destroyed and part of the garrison was set on fire. Security personnel of the garrison and their equipment were totally destroyed. In (Velyaveh) in Iraq our artillery fire destroyed one vehicle and three tents and damaged two tanks and three trenches.

8. A stupid column of an enemy batallion in Marivan attempted for the fourth time to capture the (Sateh) Heights but encountered resistance and counterattack from our brave fighters. Over 200 Iraqis were killed or wounded in these operations. The remainder of the column made a cowardly retreat. In the same area, a heavy machinegun of Saddam's army came under artillery fire from our forces. As a result, 2 enemy artillery pieces were destroyed and around 10 of their personnel were killed or wounded. Nine Iraqi soldiers joined Islam's army in the same area.

9. On 8 May, seven of our soldiers were martyred on the western and southern fronts. Six of the martyrs belonged to the ground forces and one to the Navy of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran. May their souls be blessed and their way eternal.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI AIRCRAFT USED AT REQUEST OF KURDS

LD091240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, on the basis of dispatches received from Urumiyeh, last Thursday morning the mercenary Iraqi Army--at the request of the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party, and of Qasemlu, the party's secretary general--used several aggressive MiG aircraft to launch an airraid on Sar Dasht's northern regions, where our brothers from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Reconstruction Crusade and the Muslim inhabitants of the region are prisoners of the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party.

According to reports we have received so far, during this attack, 20 of our Muslim brothers were martyred. According to the defenders of the Islamic revolution in the region, the number of martyred exceeds 20. More accurate reports on this crime perpetrated by the Ba'thist mercenaries and the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party will be announced as soon as they are received.

VOICE OF IRAN: IRAQIS USING POISON GAS

NC092252 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 8 May 81

[Excerpts] Yesterday afternoon, news agencies received a report stating that in order to advance on the Khuzestan front and ensure a quick fall of Ahvaz, which is presently under siege, the Iraqi Army has used its last dangerous weapon against our Khuzestani compatriots: This dreadful weapon is the use of poisonous gas in the Ahvaz war.

At the same time, one of our correspondents in Adnimeshk confirmed both this report and that the people of Ahvaz have started fleeing from the city to avoid this poisonous gas. Our correspondent adds that during the past 48 hours, 110,000 more war refugees who left their homes in Ahvaz have gone to safer places in Lorestan.

Dear listeners: As you heard in this report, the enemy is using all means, even the most ignoble, to destroy us. But more regrettable than this is that in order to remain commander of the forces, Bani-Sadr is only lying instead of finding solutions, Raja'i is criticizing Bani-Sadr (?to gain his master's favors), Beheshti (?is delivering sermons) and Khamene'i is delivering speeches.

Oh people of Iran, oh compatriots! Ask the imam of the nation; ask Bani-Sadr, selected by the imam of the nation; ask Rajai'i, the prime minister subservient to the imam of the nation; ask Beheshti, the president of the Supreme Court and the mirror of the imam of the nation; and ask Khamene'i, the representative of the imam of the nation in defense affairs, what information have they given to the people on the lethal gas that the Iraqi forces have used against the Iranian people in Ahvaz and Dezful? What preventive measures have they taken and how do they intend to confront this situation?

Most probably you will not receive any reply from these gentlemen. They will deny the existence of this poisonous gas and again, instead of taking preventive measures and finding remedies, they will issue fabricated communiques (?on their victories). Haven't these people assumed (?the posts) of people whose first duty is to defend and safeguard Iranian soil and the life of the Iranian nation? These two, both the homeland's territory and the people's lives, are being sacrificed for this group of illiterates and traitors. Until when?

NEPAL

NATIONAL ELECTIONS HELD; 60 PERCENT TURNOUT NOTED

BK091516 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 9 May 81

[Excerpt] The first elections in the world held under the partyless democratic Panchayat system on the basis of adult franchise to elect members to the Rashtriya Panchayat have been completed in a peaceful manner throughout the kingdom. According to the election commission the voters had particpated in the polling with great enthusiasm and in a disciplined manner. According to reports so far available from different districts there was a national average of 60 percent polling. In the urban areas of Bhaktapur district there was a 50 percent turnout, while in the rural areas 75 percent voting was recorded.

In Katmandu district, there has been more than 50 percent voting. Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa cast his vote at his constituency in (Moga) of Dhankota.

The election commission has said that ballot boxes have begun arriving in the district headquarters. The counting of votes in some districts of the kingdom will begin tomorrow.

Violence Reported

BK101621 Hong Kong AFP in English 1551 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Katmandu, 10 May (AFP)--Ballot counting began today in Nepal following yesterday's general election amid reports of disturbances and police firing in different areas. The election was disrupted and repolling will have to take place in at least 15 polling booths in Mahottari, Sarlahi, Saptari, Dhanusha and Mirang districts in southeast Nepal, a stronghold of both the outlawed Nepali Congress and the pro-Beijing Nepal Communist Party.

According to reliable sources the police opened fire in at least three places in Sarlahi, Jaleswore and Panga village on the outskirts of Katmandu and several arrests were made. At Panga Village, which is a pro-Beijing Communist Party stronghold, residents reportedly pelted the police van carrying the ballot boxes with stones and police retaliated with tear gas and then fired into the air to disperse them.

In most cases the clashes were between the two rival candidates and in at least three polling booths the anti-Pachayat group tried to capture the ballot boxes.

No casualties have been reported in any of the incidents.

Counting of ballots has begun for Katmandu and Bhaktapur and other ballot boxes are being taken to district headquarters for counting to begin. In Katmandu several candidates have complained publicly that proxy votes were cast at many polling stations where turnout was obviously low. In most Katmandu polling stations there appeared to be more onlookers than voters and polling officers admitted that many voters were confused as to where and how to put the seal on the symbols allotted to their respective candidates.

In Katmandu alone 34 candidates were contesting the election for two seats of the national legislature and the National Election Commission had printed 46 symbols all in red on the ballot paper which was 50 centimetres (20 inches) long.